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Double Act

- Don Avoli

Ending a little weak]

SHINING TIME STATION

"DOUBLE ACT"

BY DON ARIOLI

**From characters and storylines created by
Britt Allcroft and Rick Siggelkow**

**TORONTO DRAFT
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SCENE 1
(WORKSHOP)

(OPEN ON MR C AND BILLY IN THE WORKSHOP. THEY ARE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE SCALE MODEL OF A STEAM ENGINE.)

(BILLY IS HAND-TIGHTENING A FEW BOLTS ALONG THE ENGINE'S BOILER BARREL. HIS OTHER HAND HOLDS A MINIATURE SHAFT WRENCH.)

(MR. C IS STRADDLING THE ENGINE AND POLISHING THE BELL.)

BILLY:

My grandaddy told me about this engine.

MR C

Did you know that we have
TWO on the island of Sodor?
We need them for those
mountain runs!

of these

BILLY:

Most powerful engine ever
built, they say.

MR C
Whatever they are, there
"They" are absolutely right I say. } rewrite

BILLY:

I can feel the power just
looking at it.

(MR C HAS FINISHED SHINING THE BELL. HE QUICKLY ADMires HIS REFLECTION ON ITS SHEEN, THEN GIVES THE BELL CHAIN A YANK.)

SFX: DING! DING!

MR C

All aboard!

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

I might have to slim down
some to fit in there.

(HE AND BILLY LAUGH AS KARA AND STACY ENTER. KARA IS CARRYING A POT OF GLUE, CONSTRUCTION PAPER, SPARKLES, SCISSORS AND A RULER. STACY CARRIES A FRAMED PICTURE UNDER ONE ARM AND TWO BOXES OF CANDY IN THE OTHER.)

(THEY RESPOND TO THE MODEL ENGINE:)

KARA:

Oh, it's BEAUTIFUL!

STACY:

(reading nameplate)

"The Flying Mountaineer".
They don't make them like
THAT, anymore.

✓

KARA:

I wish they did ... so I
could drive one when I'M
an engineer.

BILLY:

They were built for
climbing.

(KARA GLANCES AT ALL THE REFERENCE MATERIAL THE "BOYS" HAVE BEEN USING ... SHE PICKS UP A MAGAZINE SHOWING FOUR ENGINES ... THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME, UNTIL SHE SPOTS A DIFFERENCE.)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

KARA:

They have different names. I thought they were pictures of the same engine.

BILLY:

They may look the same, Kara, but they're as different as the people who built them.

BILLY:

That's what I like about those old engines. Even the ones built in the same shop were different. Not in any big way so's you'd notice. You'd have to look for the differences. One smokebox might be a little higher than another ... steampipes at slightly different angles ... and no two bells were ever exactly in the same place. In away, they ARE like people: they may look alike, but each one is a little bit different.

And the more you get to know them, the more you can tell the differences ... Hear them too. I'll let you in on a little secret; the easiest way to tell steam engines apart is by listening to their whistles. Each one has a slightly different sound.

← enjoyed love by
someone else?

to break up long
monologue

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

MR C:

No two toots toot the same.

STACY:

Like people.

KARA:

People?

STACY:

When we talk ... you know? Even when some of us look exactly alike, you can always tell the difference in people's voices.

BILLY:

Think I'll get these tools put away. I'm itching to see this old work horse in action.

STACY:

I brought some candy to celebrate.

MR C:

I'll eat to that!

KARA:

What? I only get two pieces?

STACY:

That's all for now. Otherwise we'll run out and I want to have some for later. Besides I ^{not} don't think it's a good idea for you to have ~~so~~ ^{too} much candy.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(KARA FOLDS HER ARMS IN A POUT)

MR C:

Now THAT is a very fine
frame on that picture.
It is someone famous?

STACY:

Very famous! Show him
Kara, and don't be such a
grump. You did a
beautiful job, framing it
for Mister King.

(KARA LOSES HER POUT AND SMILES AS
SHE HOLDS THE PICTURE UP FOR ALL TO
SEE.)

BILLY:

Now there's a familiar
face.

MR C:

I know it too, but the
name escapes me.

KARA:

It's you, Mr. Conductor. I mean,
your DOUBLE.

BILLY:

Don't remind me.

STACY:

That was some adventure.

(CUT TO MONTAGE FROM "DOUBLE
TROUBLE" AS THEY CONTINUE.)

MR C (VO):

That double was trouble
alright.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

KARA (VO):

We should have never
played with your Magic
Sparkle Dust, I guess.

STACY (VO):

Who would have thought
the picture would come to
life.

BILLY (VO):

Sure made a mess of
things.

KARA (VO):

Lucky you outsmarted him,
Mister Conductor.

MR C (VO):

I never outsmarted
myself before. Never
knew I was so smart.

KARA (VO):

Why did Mister King want
the picture so badly?

(END OF "FLASHBACK" SEQUENCE.)

BILLY:

Well, they met a long time ago
when Mr. King was about
your age.

MR C:

He knew how to play in
those days ~~... Not now,~~
though. He's ^{just} too busy.

But now he must have forgotten
how to play.

STACY:

Which reminds me, Mister
King is coming in later
to pick up his picture
and Kara and I have some
unfinished business ...

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(KARA RESUMES HER GRUMPY DEMEANOR
AS STACY GUIDES HER OUT OF THE
WORKSHOP.)

STACY (CONT'D):

We'll see you later.

BILLY:

Uh huh ...

MR C:

Careful with that picture
of what's his name!

SCENE 2
(MAINSET)

KARA:

What unfinished business,
Stacy? Didn't I do a
good job?

STACY:

You did a wonderful
job ... but you didn't
clean the mess you made.

KARA:

Can't I clean it later?

STACY:

This is already "later".
Mister King will be here
soon.

KARA:

Well, can't I have more
candy first?

STACY:

Clean the mess and we'll
talk about it.

(STACY MARCHES OFF, LEAVING A VERY
SULKY KARA.)

KARA:

I don't know why I have
to do all the work around
here ...

(SHE EXITS, MUTTERING...)

It isn't fair.

SCENE 3

(ARCADE)

(KARA IS PICKING UP. SCHEMER ENTERS AND LOOKS AT THE MESS WITH DISDAIN)

SCHEMER:

What happened to the stick?

KARA:

Stick?

SCHEMER:

Yeah. The one you stirred up this MESS with. Yuk...yuk.

KARA:

Very funny, Schemer.

SCHEMER:

Thank you. Seriously: don't wait for spring. Clean it now.

KARA:

What do you THINK I'm doing?

SCHEMER:

Wait. Don't tell me ... let me guess ... NOT cleaning up? Am I right or am I right?

(SCHEMER WALKS OFF CHUCKLING AS KARA GLOVERS. SHE PLACES A PILE OF SORTED PAPER ON THE ~~NEWEL~~ POST AND SITS DOWN HEAVILY UPON THE STEP.)

KARA:

I AM cleaning up!

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

(THE PILE OF PAPERS SLIDES OFF THE POST AND SCATTERS ONTO THE FLOOR. IT'S THE LAST STRAW FOR POOR KARA. SHE SLUMPS AGAINST THE POST TRYING TO CONTROL HER ANGER.) → frustration / desperation

(SCHEMER, MEANWHILE, WIELDS HIS FEATHER DUSTER WITH EXAGGERATED CHEER AS HE GIVES HIS ARCADE THE ONCE OVER. HE'S "PERFORMING" FOR KARA ... RUBBING IT IN.)

SCHEMER:

Ah ... cleanliness. One can't be too clean, I always say. There! I'm certainly doing MY bit to keep Shining Time Station SHINING!

(HE EXITS PAST KARA.)

That's more than I can say for SOME people.
Tsk..tsk..

(KARA GLARES AFTER THE EXITING SCHEMER.)

KARA:

Ohhhh ... that Scemer ... He thinks he's FUNNY.

(MR C ARRIVES. HE'S SHAKING HIS WHISTLE.)

MR C:

It IS funny, now that you mention it.

KARA:

I don't think it is, Mister Conductor. Not one bit.

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

MR C:

Oh? Well, just give a listen.

(HE BLOWS HIS WHISTLE. IT DEFINITELY SOUNDS SOUR.)

MR C (CONT'D):

Sounds funny to me.
Doesn't it sound funny to you?

KARA:

Oh, I thought you were talking about Schemer.

MR C:

Is he sounding funny, too?

KARA: *a lot.*
he's hilarious
He thinks he does. He keeps making fun of the mess I made. ✓

MR C:

Hmm.. I see. Well, once it's clean, he'll stop.

KARA:

I know. But it's taking me so long. I have an idea. Could you clean up the mess it with your Magic? Please? I'll give you some of my candy if you do. Stacy promised me more. Please Mister Conductor?

MR C:

I most certainly would.

KARA:

Oh, thank you!

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

MR C:

If only Stacy asked me to
... but she didn't, she
asked you.

KARA:

I know, but --

MR C:

Stacy knows what's best.

KARA:

She doesn't! Not always.

MR C:

This time I think she
does.

(toots on whistle)
Definitely out of tune.
Must get it fixed. If I
hurry, I'll be able to
catch Ms. Earlybird before
breakfast. She's a robin,
you know, and they get up
early. She's the best whistle
tuner in the business. And
she's cheap! Get it? Cheep?

KARA:

But, Mister Conductor ...

MR C:

My whistle will soon be
good as new!

(KARA GIVES MR C A DISAPPOINTED
LOOK AS HE EXITS IN A SPRINKLE OF
SPARKLE DUST.)

(KARA'S ANGRY EYES SUDDENLY LIGHT
UP AND SHE QUICKLY GRABS A HANDFUL
OF THE DUST.)

KARA:

YES!

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

(SHE HURRIEDLY MOVES OVER TO THE LUGGAGE AREA AND SPRINKLES THE MAGIC DUST OVER THE FRAMED PICTURE OF MR C.)

(A MAGICAL EFFECT. MR C'S DOUBLE IS BACK! AS HE SHAKES THE KINKS OUT OF HIS BODY, HE SIGHS.)

DOUBLE:

Ahh ... It's good to be free!
Thank you, dear child.
Now I can continue to do things quite wild!

KARA:

You have to promise to help me or I'll tell on you.

DOUBLE:

Tell on me?
Oh fie. Oh fee!
What do you want,
One wish or three?

KARA:

I just want you to clean the mess I made. THEN you HAVE TO go back inside the picture.

DOUBLE:

Clean your mess?
Is that what you ask?
then return,
Right after the task?

(KARA NODS HER HEAD, DOING HER BEST TO BE FIRM. DOUBLE CONTINUES:)

But what's in it for me?
Might I ask if I may?
If I DO help you,
Won't you let me play?

(KARA ISN'T SURE. THIS ISN'T IN HER PLANS.)

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

KARA:

But you'll make trouble
again. Like the last
time.

DOUBLE:

Trouble? Me?
I just want to have fun.
It's my twin who's the
rascal!
HE's the troublesome one!

KARA:

No, you HAVE TO go back.

DOUBLE:

If that's what you wish
I'll do it, my dear.
But, first you should see
If the coast is clear!

(KARA EXITS WHILE ORDERING)

KARA (OFF):

Please don't go away ...

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

DOUBLE:

Go away? Don't you fear.
I LIKE it, I do.
I like it right here.

✓

(FOR OUR BENEFIT)

And now that I'm, out
I'm staying this way,
They won't trick me again,
I'm here to stay!

The trouble I'll cause!
Trouble galore!
And then when I'm done --
I'll make even more!

The first thing I'll do
is empty this place!
Then, Mister Conductor
We meet: face to face!

✓

I'll force you to lie down
In that picture, I will.
I'll use tricks and magic,
And your role I'll fill.

D

When the others return,
They'll think that I'm you
They'll think I'm Mr. Conductor *I'll play Mr. Conductor*
They won't have a clue.

Hee. Hee. Hee.

(HE AVERTS HIS EVIL LAUGHING AS
KARA RETURNS.)

KARA:

It's all clear.

(THE DOUBLE WAVES HIS HAND AND THE
STATION IS CLEAN.)

KARA:

Thank you. Now, you
have to go back in to the
picture.

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

DOUBLE:

Oh, there's plenty of
time.
PLEASE let me stay!
Just a little while
longer -
I have one trick to play.

KARA:

Oh, not a trick!

DOUBLE:

ON Schemer, that cad!
He teased you, I know.
Get rid of him, I say. ^{now}
Don't you want him to go?

KARA:

I do! But...

DOUBLE:

Distract him okay?
While I send him away.

KARA:

Well ... just this once
and then you have to go
back.

(THE DOUBLE NODS AND GIGGLES. KARA
ISN'T SURE WHAT TO DO WHEN SCHEMER
STRIDES IN AND PAST. RAISING AN
EYEBROW WHEN HE SEES HOW CLEAN THE
STATION IS ...)

SCHEMER:

(aside) Bet she had
help. Well ... it's
nickel counting time!
(SINGING) I love my
nickels and they love me.
La la la (etc...)

(THE DOUBLE IS PERCHED ON THE JUKE
BOX AND HE SIGNALS KARA. KARA IS
UNCERTAIN, BUT DECIDES TO DISTRACT
SCHEMER.)

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

KARA:

Schemer! I'm glad you're here.

SCHEMER:

No thank you. I DON'T need help counting my nickels.

KARA:

It's not that. I thought I saw a bat up on the ceiling.

SCHEMER:

A BAT!!!??

KARA:

I ... I think so ... See? that shape up there ...

(SCHEMER MOVES WITH APPREHENSION TO CENTER OF THE STATION AND LOOKS UP IN THE DIRECTION OF KARA'S POINT.)

SCHEMER:

Why did I let my Mommy borrow my umbrella. I don't like bats. I don't see any bats. Where's the bat? There?

KARA:

I think so. Didn't it just move?

(WHILE THEY LOOK UP, THE DOUBLE STANDS AND HOLDS HIS ARMS OUT IN A SPELL-MAKING POST^E)

A

DOUBLE:

If nickels are his boast-
Then give him the most!

(AN OFF SCREEN RUMBLE IS HEARD.)

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

What's that noise? I
thought bats squeaked.

(THE RUMBLE IS GETTING CLOSER.
KARA LOOKS BEHIND THEM AND QUICKLY
MOVES OUT OF THE WAY.)

KARA:

Watch out, Schemer!

SCHEMER:

That is definitely NOT a
bat making that noise ...

(HE SUDDENLY TURNS AND REACTS.)

Yeek!

(CUT TO AN ENORMOUS NICKEL ROLLING
PAST THE ARCHWAY, OVER THE BACK
PLATFORM AND HEADING STRAIGHT FOR
SCHEMER.)

SCHEMER:

Help! A Nickel Monster!

(SCHEMER TURNS AND RUNS OUT OF THE
STATION WITH THE HUGE COIN IN HOT
PURSUIT.)

(KARA IS SHOCKED. THE DOUBLE IS
DOUBLED UP.)

DOUBLE:

Ho ho what fun!
Did you see him run?

SCENE 4
(JUKE BOX)

TITO:

Did I see what I saw?

REX:

I dunno. Tex, did you
see what he saw?

TEX:

I didn't see nuthin, Rex.
I HEARD somethin, though.

DIDI:

Sounded like thunder to
me.

TITO:

A giant nickel. I want
it! I want it! Prepare
the elevator.

DIDI:

Tito's finally gone and
done it boys: popped his
cork.

TITO:

It's the King of all
nickels and I WANT it!

SCENE 5
(MAIN SET)

(DOUBLE IS MARCHING UP AND DOWN ON THE OPEN BOX OF CHOCOLATES. EACH TIME HIS FOOT COMES DOWN, HE SMASHES THE TOP OF A CHOCOLATE.)

DOUBLE:

Candy is dandy --
But never to eat.
Candy is dandy --
For smashing with feet!

(KARA IS LOOKING FOR THE DOUBLE. SHE'S VERY WORRIED.)

KARA:

Mister Double?
... Mister Conductor's
double ... ? Oh ...
where is he?

(THE DOUBLE CLIMBS ONTO THE RAILING BESIDE KARA AND STARTLES HER.)

You have to go back now
... you promised!

DOUBLE:

First: I am NOT his
double.
He is MY DOUBLE.
Second: I won't go
back ...
Not this time.
Third: A broken promise
is NOT a crime!

KARA:

Then I'm going to tell on
you!

DOUBLE:

Tell.
Go ahead.
They'll just get angry,
And send you to bed!

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

KARA:

You ... you're terrible!

DOUBLE:

Thank you, I know --
I'm a terrible pest!
Wait til you see --
What I do to the rest!

(KARA IS HORRIFIED AT WHAT SHE'S UNLEASHED. THE DOUBLE LAUGHS AT HER PLIGHT WITH GLEE.)

Ho ho, hee, hee
You set me free.
I'm taking over
Wait and see!

(SUDDENLY WE HEAR STACY APPROACHING.)

STACY (OFF):

Kara!

(KARA PANICS AND RUSHES TO HIDE AMONGST THE LUGGAGE.)

(STACY ENTERS. SEES THE STATION AND REACTS HAPPILY AND LOOKS AROUND FOR KARA. DURING THIS, SHE PICKS UP THE BOXES OF CANDY.)

This is wonderful! I've never seen the station so clean! Kara?

(SHE SEES KARA BY THE LUGGAGE AND WALKS OVER TO HER. BEAMING ...)

Oh, you don't have to clean the luggage area too. You've done enough work. You've earned your candy. Take as much as you like.

(FEELING TERRIBLY GUILTY, KARA ISN'T SURE WHAT TO DO. FINALLY SHE CAN'T IGNORE THE INVITATION TO HELP HERSELF TO THE CANDY AND ACCEPTS.)

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

KARA:

Thank you ... I think
I'll take just one.

STACY:

Help yourself.

(STACY OPENS THE BOX AND KARA
REACTS TO THE INTERIOR.)

STACY:

Smashed! Well doesn't
that take the cake?
Luckily I kept the bill!
Here, take the other box.

(SHE HANDS THE BOX TO KARA. KARA
OPENS IT AND LET'S OUT A YELL,
DROPPING IT IN THE PROCESS.)

(CUT TO SEE CREAMED SPINACH *< keepin'*
OUT OF THE BOX.)

KARA:

This isn't candy.
It's...creamed spinach.
Yuck.

(CUT TO THE DOUBLE LAUGHING WITH
EVIL GLEE.)

(STACY IS MYSTIFIED TO SAY THE
LEAST.)

STACY:

Who could've done this?
Did you see Schemer
around these chocolates
today?

KARA:

Uh...Stacy? You know
that picture of Mister
Conductor's
double?...well...

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

STACY:

It's fine where it is ...
Here ... take these boxes
to Mister Winslow's store
and tell him I want two
fresh boxes. And check
them first!

KARA

But ... the double ...
he's making trouble ...

STACY:

Double trouble alright!
If he won't exchange BOTH
boxes, you have Mister
Winslow call me! I'll
tell him a thing or two.

(A RELUCTANT KARA EXITS WHILE STACY
CONTINUES TO FUME.)

Creamed spinach...smashed
chocolates ... I won't be
going to his store again.

What kind of a shot is this
turning?

(THE PHONE RINGS. STACY MOVES TO
THE TICKET BOOTH AND ANSWERS.)

Shining Time Station.
Stacy Jones here ... Oh.
Mister King.

(SHE LISTENS, RESPECTFUL, BUT
PUZZLED.)

Um ... can you repeat
that, sir?

(CUT TO THE DOUBLE, ON THE PHONE IN
THE LUGGAGE AREA. HE IS DOING A
PERFECT IMITATION OF J.B. KING.)

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

DOUBLE:

Leaky Park is leaking!
It's from there that I'm
speaking.
You and Billy come!
Faster than fast!
Hurry! Hurry!
Or this station won't
last!

(CUT BACK TO A VERY PERPLEXED
STACY.)

STACY:

Uh ... that's what I
thought you said, Mr.
King. We'll be right
over.

(AS STACY RUSHES TO GET BILLY, SHE
WONDERS.)

I wonder why Mister King
rhymed his words. I hope
he's not taking another
song-writing course.
Billy! Billy!

(SHE EXITS.)

(THE DOUBLE IS NOW BY THE PICTURE
AND JOYFULLY CLAPPING HIS HANDS.)

DOUBLE:

AHA! Horray!
That's all of them away!
And now, Mr. Conductor,
My sweet charming double,
You're in for some very
terrible trouble.
When I trap you in here,
You'll just disappear.

(A CLANKING NOISE INTERRUPTS. THE
DOUBLE HIDES.)

(CUT TO SCHEMER ENTERING, DRESSED
IN A SUIT OF ARMOR.)

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

No monster nickel is going to
get my nickels. Where are
you, monster? Aha! I see
you! No I don't (thank
goodness) ...

(IT ISN'T EASY, BUT SCHEMER TRIES TO
MAKE WARRIOR MOVES DURING HIS
CHALLENGE. TO THE UNTRAINED EYE HE
APPEARS TO BE STUMBLING ABOUT,
SUFFERING FROM FREQUENT
"FACE-MASK-DROPS" AS HE CLOMPS
OVER TO THE ARCADE.)

Halt! I know you're in
there, Roll out with your head *side* *first*
up!

(CUT TO THE DOUBLE, STANDING ON
THE COIN SLOT OF THE JUKE BOX.)

DOUBLE:

Curses and drat!
I didn't plan on that.
(thinks)
I'll fix that buffoon -
I'll play a sad tune!

(HE CASTS A SPELL INTO THE SLOT.)

Play me a song with a sob
and a sigh -
So Schemer will sniffle,
blubber and CRY!

SCENE 6

(INTERIOR JUKE BOX)

TITO:

Sniff ... I'm feeling
kind of blue.

REX:

I hate to see a grown man
cry, Tex.

TEX:

Then I think we best sing
something quick, Rex.

DIDI:

Not "quick": Sad. I'M
in the mood for it
too ... sniff!

SCENE 7

PUPPET SONG - DANNY BOY

(INTERCUT: SCHEMER REACTS TO THE SONG AS PLANNED: HE'S CRYING BUCKETS AND WALKING AROUND IN CIRCLES TRYING TO CONTROL HIS EMOTIONS. THE TEARS STREAM FROM HIM LIKE A CIRCUS CLOWN'S.)

SCENE 8
(MAIN SET)

(AT END OF PUPPET SONG, SCHEMER GIVES A FINAL:)

SCHEMER:

WAHHHHHH!

(CAUSING HIS VISOR TO DROP AND RUST SHUT. HIS MUFFLED CRYING CONTINUES.)

(THE DOUBLE APPEARS ON HIS SHOULDER WITH A WATERING CAN. AND, WHILE SCHEMER STRUGGLES TO LIFT THE VISOR, THE DOUBLE SPRINKLES HIS SHOULDERS SO THAT SCHEMER'S ARMS RUST IN MID-POSE.)

(THEN WHILE SCHEMER STAGGERS OVER TO THE ARCADE, IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO SAVE HIS NICKELS, HIS LEGS ARE SPRINKLED AND HE STANDS, LIKE THE TIN MAN: FROZEN IN SUIT.

DOUBLE:

Oh, tut, tut. [Schemer's
✓armor is frozen shut.

(THE GLEEFUL DOUBLE THEN BLOWS ON SCHEMER AND HE FALLS OVER WITH A HEAVY CLUNK, AMONGST THE MACHINES.)

(CUT TO KARA RETURNING WITH THE BOXES OF CANDY.)

KARA:

Stacy! Billy! Help?
Where IS everybody?

(THE DOUBLE IS NOT HAPPY WITH THIS INTERRUPTION EITHER.)

DOUBLE:

Oh, foo and fie!
My Plan's going awry!

(HE RUNS INTO BILLY'S WORKSHOP.)

I had better scameroo
While I think what to do!

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(KARA MOVES TOWARDS THE MURAL.
SHE'S STILL FEELING GUILTY. SHE
RUNS HER FINGERS ALONG THE WALL
TOWARDS MR C'S STATION HOUSE AND
SAYS WITH QUIET LONGING...)

KARA:

Oh, Mister Conductor ...
what can I do ... ?

(MR C APPEARS, LOOKING CONCERNED.)

MR C:

This is truly terrible.

KARA:

Mister Conductor! Is that really
you?

MR C:

Of course it's me. Who
else could it be?
How could she do this to
me?

KARA:

She didn't do it ... It
was ... Mister Conductor
is this another trick?
Are you really --

MR C:

A trick? I hope not.
Maybe I'll give Ms.
Earlybird a GOOD talking
to!

KARA:

It is you, Mister
Conductor!

MR C:

Well ... maybe I won't.
I'll give her one more
chance. She never showed
up you see. Listen --

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(HE TOOTS A SOUR NOTE.)

KARA:

Oh, Mister Conductor am I
so happy to see you!

MR C:

And I'm ALWAYS happy to
see you.

KARA:

Something terrible's
happened!

MR C:

You, too?

KARA:

Yes ... well ... actually
... it's a friend of mine
... she was supposed to
do something for somebody
but she didn't

MR C:

Um ... I THINK I see.

KARA:

And instead she asked
somebody she wasn't
supposed to ask to help
her but HE made
everything worse.

MR C:

Hmm ... that usually
happens when you do.
Like Bill and Ben.

KARA:

Bill and Ben?

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

MR C:

They're twins, you know.
Why don't I tell you what
happened to them. Maybe
it will help your friend.

(HE TOOTS - REACTS TO THE SOUR
NOTE.)

SCENE 10

THOMAS EPISODE: "HEROES"

SCENE 11
(MAIN SET)

(AFTER THE THOMAS STORY, KARA LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S MADE HER MIND UP ABOUT
SOMETHING.)

MR C:

See? things aren't
always as terrible as you
might think.

KARA:

But this is truly
terrible, Mister
Conductor.

MR C:

You mean your friend ...
that's too bad.

KARA:

She's not my friend.

MR C:

Oh.. Well, it's still too
bad ... whatever it was
that she was supposed to
do but didn't

KARA:

No ... I mean that friend
is really me!

MR C:

Your friend is ... you?

KARA:

Yes! And I used some of
your magic sparkle dust
to free your double!

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

MR C:

I see. So that somebody
who did what YOU were
supposed to do and made
everything worse, is my
double?

KARA:

Yes, I'm sorry.

MR C:

Hmmm. Now, I wonder
where he could be?

KARA:

I don't know.

(SUDDENLY THEY HEAR A CHUGGING
SOUND.)

(CUT TO THE MODEL ENGINE AS IT
ROARS OUT OF BILLY'S WORKSHOP,
DRIVEN BY THE NASTY-LAUGHING
DOUBLE.)

DOUBLE:

Now I've got you,
My cheerful twin.
It's you or me,
And I shall WIN!

((MR C MOVES QUICKLY. HE SEEKS TO
HAVE A PLAN. HE WAVES HIS ARMS AT
THE ENGINE.)

KARA:

Mister Conductor, WATCH
OUT!

DOUBLE:

HaHa...heeHEE!

(THE TRAIN IS HEADING RIGHT FOR MR
C. THEN, AT THE LAST MINUTE, HE
LEAPS OUT OF THE WAY AND THE ENGINE
CRASHES AGAINST THE BENCH AND
STOPS.)

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

(KARA RUSHES OVER AND DISCOVERS TWO, DAZED MR C'S SITTING BY THE WRECK. SHE'S NOT SURE WHICH IS WHICH.)

KARA:

Mister Conductor ...

DOUBLE:

(pointing to MR C) Stick him quick! He'll get away ...

(KARA LOOKS AROUND, GRABS HER GLUE POT, TAKES OUT THE BRUSH AND MOVES HALTINGLY TOWARDS MR C.)

MR C:

Wait! I'm me ... he's not!

DOUBLE:

Stick HIM with that gluey pot!

KARA:

Ohh ... which one of you is Mister Conductor?

DOUBLE:

Me!

MR C:

Me!

(KARA WAVERS WITH HER GLUE BRUSH BETWEEN THE TWO. UNCERTAINTY PLAYS ACROSS HER FEATURES. SUDDENLY SHE GETS AN IDEA.)

KARA:

Your whistle!

DOUBLE:

My whistle?

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

MR C:

My whistle!!

(MR C BRINGS HIS WHISTLE TOWARDS HIS LIPS. THE DOUBLE DOES IT FASTER AND BLOWS. A PERFECT NOTE.)

(MR C TAKES HIS TIMES. CLEARS HIS THROAT AND BLOWS. A SOUR NOTE.) ✓

(KARA SMILES AND QUICKLY DABS GLUE ON THE INSIDES OF THE DOUBLE'S ARMS AND LEGS.)

DOUBLE:

NO!!!

MR C:

Yes.

(THE DOUBLE IS NOW LYING FLAT, ARMS STUCK TO HIS SIDES; LEGS STUCK TOGETHER. MR C STANDS, FLEXES HIMSELF, LIFTS HIS DOUBLE AND PUTS HIM UNDER HIS ARM.)

MR C (CONT'D):

Thank you, Kara. You're J? a true hero!

(MR C AND DOUBLE VANISH. KARA IS GREATLY RELIEVED.)

(STACY, BILLY AND J.B. KING ENTER.)

JBK:

I tell you, Miss Jones,
I did NOT make that
call.. Leaky Park has
been leak-free for over a
year.

STACY:

But it sounded exactly
like you.

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

JBK:

Well, it wasn't me. It must have been an impostor! Now, I've wasted enough time today ... where's my picture?

(KARA HAS REVIVED SCHEMER. SHE HELPS HIM TO HIS FEET. THE OTHERS ARE STARTLED TO SAY THE LEAST. SCHEMER CLOMPS OVER TO THEM.)

as old car -
as far as the time when

JBK:

Schemer? Is that you?

(SCHEMER LIFTS HIS LID AND STARES OUT AT THEM. HIS EYES LIGHT UP WHEN HE SEES JBK.)

SCHEMER:

Oh, Mister J.B. King, exalted head! You've come to save me from the Monster Nickel!

JBK:

Miss Jones ... Mister Twofeathers ... do you think Schemer's under too much stress?

BILLY:

Seemed okay this morning, J.B.

STACY:

He wasn't dressed like that when I saw him.
What a get up ... boy!

SCHEMER:

Boy! Oh, Danny ... BOY! Wahhhh ... boo hoo. The pipes ... the pipes are calling ... wah boo hoo .. I want my Mommy!

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

(SCHEMER CLANKS OUT, WEEPING OVER
"DANNY BOY")

JBK:

There are days when I have a
good mind to close this
station.

STACY:

Oh!

KARA:

Don't worry Mister
King ... everything is
back to normal now.

JBK:

That's what I'm afraid of
...

KARA:

Schemer thought he saw a
ghost.

JBK:

A ghost?

(BILLY CONFIDES IN J.B.)

BILLY:

J.B.? I'm sorry to be the
one to tell you this, but
Schemer thinks his arcade
is haunted.

JBK:

Haunted! That's impossible,
There are NO ghosts in
ANY of my stations.

monsters...

STACY:

We know, Mister King,
but-

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

JBK:

Can you IMAGINE what might happen if someone like Midge Smoot gets a wind of this??!

BILLY:

J.B.-

JBK:

The WHOLE WORLD WILL think I run a haunted railroad! Passengers will stay away in DROVES. We'll all be out of work!

BILLY:

J.B. calm down. Schemer won't talk about it...

STACY:

Oh, no. It's just his way of...protecting us. From ghosts. Not that there are any.

JBK:

Yes...well...I'm in favor of staff loyalty..but, I think he needs a good talking to..

STACY:

Leave it to me.

JBK:

Fine. I hope he doesn't get too close to any magnets in that metal suit of his..Well! I must be off. Where's my picture?

KARA:

I'll get it !

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

(KARA RUNS OVER TO THE LUGGAGE AREA. SHE IS HOPING THAT THE DOUBLE IS BACK WHERE HE BELONGS.. SHE LOOKS. HE'S BACK. SHE SIGHS A SIGH OF RELIEF. JUST BEFORE SHE LEAVES, MR.C POPS OUT AND THEY EXCHANGE 'O.K.'SIGNS)

(JBK ADMIRES THE FRAMING)

JBK:

Excellent framing, Kara.

KARA:

Thank you, Mister King.

(HE EXITS, STEALING LONGING LOOKS AT THE PICTURE.)

JBK:

Should I hang you in the den? No ... the bedroom!
That's where you belong ...

SCENE 12
(MAIN SET)

(BILLY AND MR C ARE REPAIRING
THE ENGINE. STACY AND KARA ARE
ADMIRING THEIR HANDIWORK.)

BILLY:

Not much damage.

MR C:

There'd have been much
more if Kara hadn't
stopped me ... er Him!

KARA:

It was all my fault.

BILLY:

Nothing is ever just one
person's fault, Kara.
You did fine in the end.

KARA:

I'm never going to lie again ...
it's nothing but trouble.

MR C:

DOUBLE trouble!

(THEY LAUGH.)

STACY:

Candy? I think we earned
it.

BILLY:

You can have my share,
Kara.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MR C:

Mine too ...

(KARA AND STACY EXCHANGE LOOKS.
LAUGH AND HUG.)

(FADE)